

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 4, lines 12, "FIG. 5" should be "FIG. 2" since it is describing FIG. 2.

As shown in FIG. 5 2, assume that four consecutive packets #1, #2, #3 and #4 respectively having cell lengths of 3, 2, 4 and 4 are input to the IP scheduling section 41, FIG. 1. Also, assume that the IP scheduling section 41 discards the packet #2 due to overflow as a result of scheduling, as indicated by a cross. Then, the format converting section 42 divides the scheduled packets #1, #3 and #4 to three ATM cells, four ATM cells and four ATM cells respectively. Further, assume that the ATM scheduling section 43 discards one of the cells derived from the packet #1 and one of the cells derived from the packet #4. As a result, one whole packet and two cells are discarded in total, as indicated by crosses in FIG. 1. In this condition, a receiving terminal cannot reconstruct the IP packet #1 or #4 due to the incomplete cells. That is, only the IP packet #3 can be transferred to a receiving terminal.